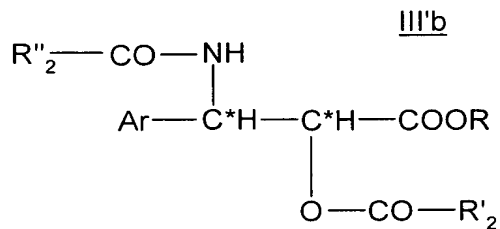
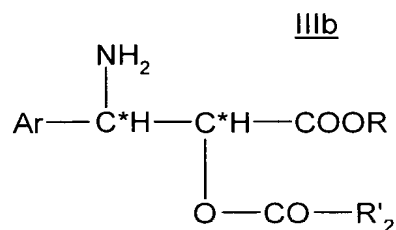
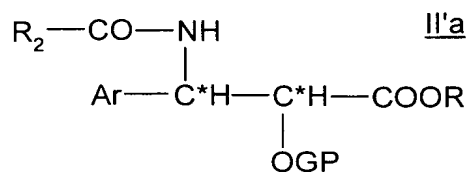
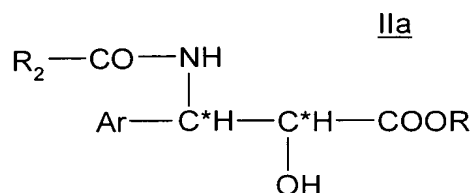
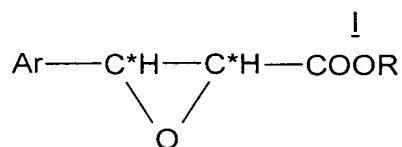


This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.-11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) A precursor compound of at least one taxane side chain, wherein said precursor compound comprises at least one compound of formulae I, IIa, II'a, IIIb and III'b, or derivatives thereof:



wherein

Ar is an aryl radical, R<sub>2</sub> is an aryl radical, R'<sub>2</sub> is an aryl radical, a lower alkyl radical, or a lower perhaloalkyl radical, R''<sub>2</sub> is an aryl radical, a lower alkyl radical, or a lower perhaloalkyl radical, and GP is a protective group, and

R represents an optically pure enantiomer of a highly sterically hindered chiral hydrocarbon radical.

**13. (Previously Presented)** A compound according to one of claims 12 or 14, wherein R is a menthyl radical enantiomer, optionally (+)-menthyl.

**14. (Previously Presented)** A compound according to claim 12, wherein the cis-β-phenylglycidate derivative of general formula I is of (2R, 3R) configuration, and the derivatives of general formulae IIa, IIb and III'b are of (2R, 3S) configuration.

**15. (Canceled)**

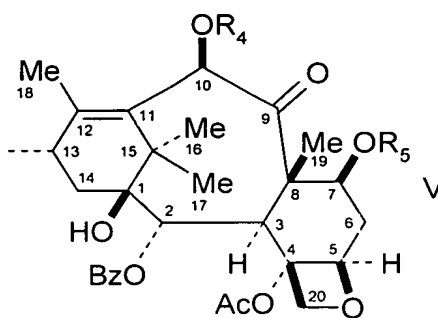
**16. (Canceled)**

**17. (Currently Amended)** A process for preparing a taxane of general formula IV,

C-B IV

wherein

B represents a radical of general formula V



wherein

Ac is an acetyl radical,

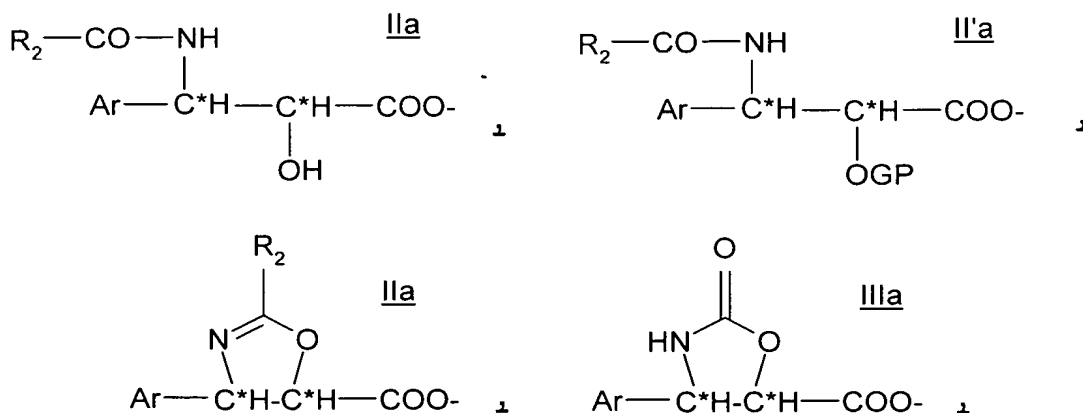
Bz is a benzyl radical,

Me is a methyl radical,

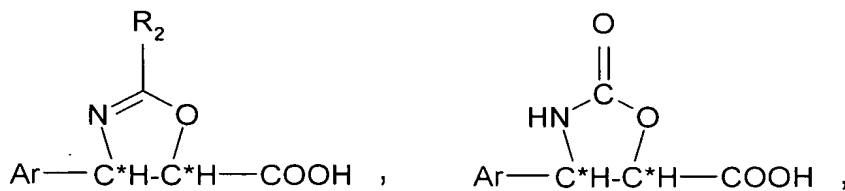
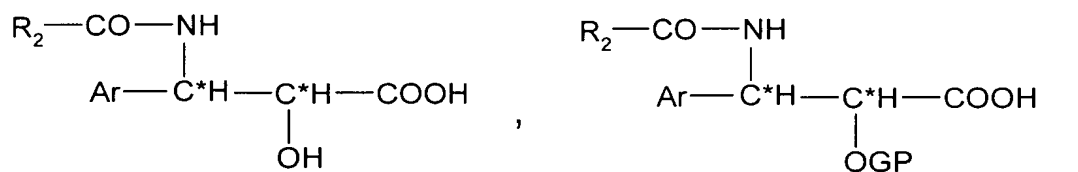
R<sub>4</sub> is an acetyl radical, or a protective group for the hydroxyl functional group, represented by GP1,

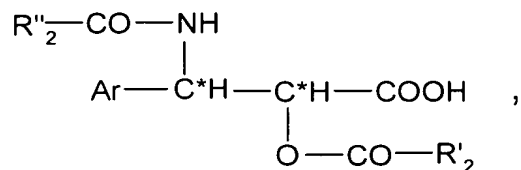
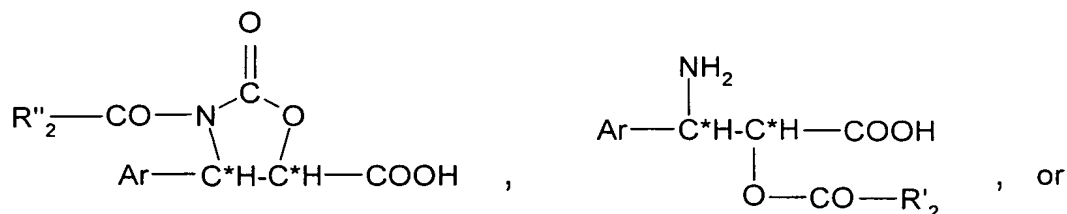
R<sub>5</sub> is a protective group for the hydroxyl functional group represented by GP2, wherein GP1 and GP2 are chosen independently of one another from conventional protective groups employed in a hemisynthesis of taxanes, and

C is a side chain chosen from of formulae ~~IIa, II'a, IIb, IIIa, III'a, IIIb, and III'b~~:



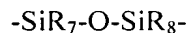
wherein Ar is an aryl radical, R<sub>2</sub> is an aryl radical, R'<sub>2</sub> is an aryl radical, a lower alkyl radical, or a lower perhaloalkyl radical, R''<sub>2</sub> is an aryl radical, a lower alkyl radical, or a lower perhaloalkyl radical, and GP is a protective group, comprising esterifying an appropriate baccatin III derivative of general formula V, carrying a C-13 hydroxyl functional group, with a derivative compound of formulae Ha, H'a, Hb, H'a, H'b, or H'b, wherein R represents a hydrogen atom,





and is obtained by controlled saponification.

**18. (Previously Presented)** A process according to claim 17, wherein the GP1 and GP2 protective groups are independently chosen from trialkylsilyls, TROC, linear or branched bulky haloalkoxycarbonyl radicals comprising at least one halogen atom, acyl radicals in which the carbon  $\alpha$  to the carbonyl functional group carries at least one oxygen atom, or a trialkylgermanyl radical, or GP1 and GP2 together form a divalent radical of formula



wherein

$\text{R}_7$  and  $\text{R}_8$ , independently of one another, each represent a sterically hindered alkyl radical.

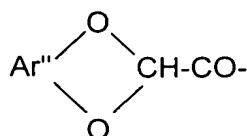
**19. (Previously Presented)** A process according to either one of claims 17 or 18, wherein the acyl radicals in which the carbon  $\alpha$  to the carbonyl functional group carries at least one oxygen atom are chosen from

- alkoxy- or aryloxyacetyl radicals of formula



wherein  $R_6$  is a sterically hindered alkyl radical, a cycloalkyl radical, or an aryl radical,

- or arylidenedioxyacetyl radicals of formula



wherein  $Ar''$  represents an arylidene radical.

**20. (Previously Presented)** A process according to claim 19, wherein:

the sterically hindered alkyl radical is a linear or branched  $C_1-C_6$  alkyl radical, substituted by at least one bulky substituent chosen from halogens, linear or branched  $C_1-C_6$  alkyl, linear or branched  $C_1-C_6$  alkoxy,  $C_3-C_6$  cycloalkyl, and aryl radicals,

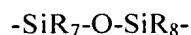
the cycloalkyl radical is a  $C_3-C_6$  cycloalkyl radical, optionally substituted by at least one bulky substituent independently chosen from halogens, linear or branched  $C_1-C_6$  alkyl, linear or branched  $C_1-C_6$  alkoxy, and aryl radicals,

the aryl radical is a phenyl, naphthyl, anthryl or phenanthryl radical, optionally substituted by at least one bulky substituent chosen from halogens, linear or branched  $C_1-C_6$  alkyl, linear or branched  $C_1-C_6$  alkoxy, or aryl radicals, and

the arylidene radical is a phenylene, naphthylene, anthrylene or phenanthrylene radical, optionally substituted by at least one bulky substituent chosen from halogens, linear or branched  $C_1-C_6$  alkyl, linear or branched  $C_1-C_6$  alkoxy, and aryl radicals.

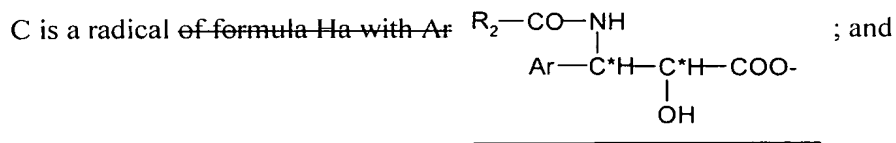
21. **(Previously Presented)** A process according to either one of claims 17 or 18, wherein  $R_4$  represents an acetyl radical, and GP2 is chosen from a trialkylsilyl, 2,2,2-trichloroethoxycarbonyl, 2,2,2-tribromoethoxycarbonyl, 2,2,2,1-tetrachloroethoxycarbonyl, 2,2,2-trichloro-*t*-butoxycarbonyl, trichloromethoxycarbonyl, phenoxyacetyl, and trialkylgermanyl radicals.

22. **(Previously Presented)** A process according to either one of claims 17 or 18, wherein  $R_4$  represents a GP1 group, and GP1 and GP2 are independently chosen from a 2,2,2-trichloroethoxy-carbonyl and a phenoxyacetyl radical, or together form a divalent radical of formula



in which  $R_7$  and  $R_8$  each represent an isopropyl radical.

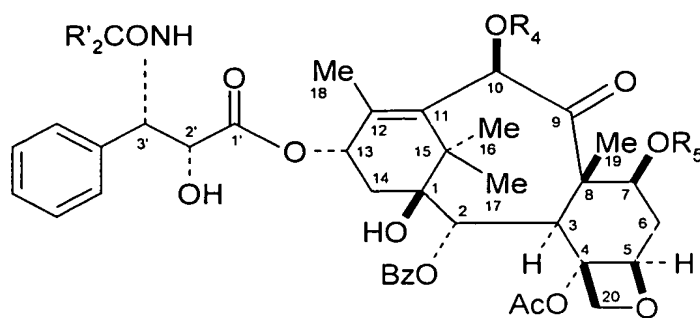
23. **(Currently Amended)** A process according to claim 17 or 18, wherein



$R_2$  is a phenyl radical; and

$R_4$  is an acetyl radical.

24. **(Previously Presented)** A process according to claim 17 or 18, further comprising deprotecting the hydroxyls of the derivatives of general formula IV and optionally, simultaneously or separately, opening the oxazoline ring of the radicals of formula IIb or IIIa wherein a taxane derivative of general formula VI is produced



wherein

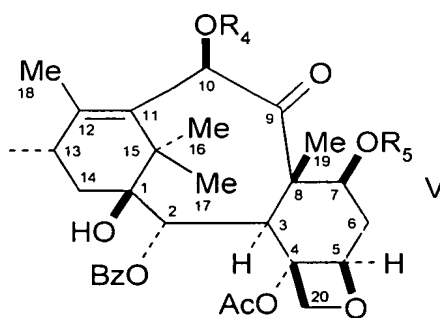
Ac is an acetyl radical, Bz is a benzyl radical, Me is a methyl radical, and R'2 is an aryl radical, a lower alkyl radical, or a lower perhaloalkyl radical,

R4 represents a hydrogen atom or an acetyl radical, and

R5 represents a hydrogen atom.

25. (Canceled)

26. (Withdrawn) A baccatin III derivative which is of use in the hemisynthesis of taxanes, chosen from derivatives of general formula V



wherein

Ac is an acetyl radical,

Bz is an benzyl radical,



Me is a methyl radical,

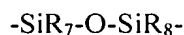
R<sub>4</sub> is an acetyl radical or a protective group for the hydroxyl functional group represented by GP 1,

R<sub>5</sub> is a protective group for the hydroxyl functional group represented by GP2, wherein

GP1 and GP2 are selected independently of one another from

bulky haloalkoxycarbonyl radicals, with the exception of TROC, acyl radicals in which a carbon  $\alpha$  to the carbonyl functional group carries at least one oxygen atom, and trialkylgermanyl radicals, or

GP 1 and GP2 together form a divalent radical of formula



wherein

R<sub>7</sub> and R<sub>8</sub>, selected independently of one another, represent a sterically hindered alkyl radical.

**27. (Previously Presented)** The method of claim 20, wherein the cycloalkyl radical is cyclohexyl, optionally substituted by at least one linear or branched C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>6</sub> alkyl radical.

**28. (Previously Presented)** The method of claim 27, wherein the cyclohexyl radical is selected from menthyl, its enantiomers, and mixtures of its enantiomers in any proportion.

**29. (Previously Presented)** The method of claim 20, wherein the aryl radical is substituted by at least one phenyl radical.

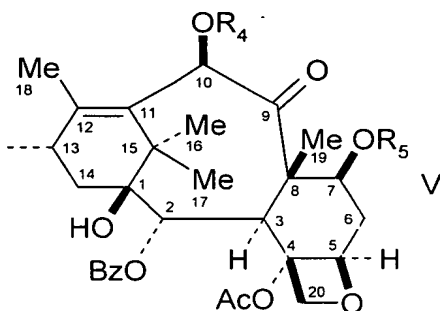
30. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 29, wherein said at least one phenyl radical is substituted by one or two bulky substituents ortho- and ortho'- to the ether bond.

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the arylidene radical is substituted by at least one phenyl radical.

32. (Withdrawn) A taxane derivative of general formula IV

C-B IV

wherein B is a radical of general formula V:



wherein

Ac is an acetyl radical,

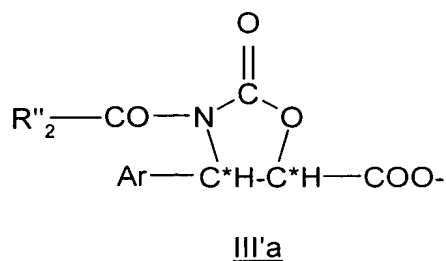
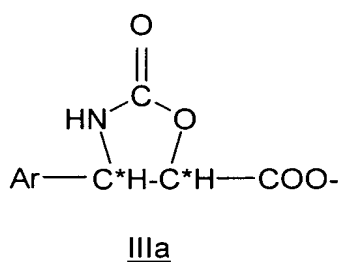
Bz is an benzyl radical,

Me is a methyl radical,

R<sub>4</sub> is an acetyl radical, or a protective group for the hydroxyl functional group, represented by GP1, and

R<sub>5</sub> is a protective group for the hydroxyl functional group represented by GP2, wherein GP1 and GP2 are selected independently of one another from conventional protective groups employed in the hemisynthesis of taxanes;

and wherein C is a side chain selected from formulae IIIa and III'a:



wherein Ar is an aryl radical, and R''<sub>2</sub> is chosen from an aryl radical, a lower alkyl radical, and a lower perhaloalkyl radical.

33. **(Withdrawn)** The taxane derivative of claim 32, wherein said conventional protective groups employed in the hemisynthesis of taxanes are chosen from trialkylsilyls and TROC.